

Report of the Head of Resources

**WELLINGBOROUGH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL REVIEW 2013-14**

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform members of the progress of the Wellingborough Community Safety Partnership (CSP). It accounts for activity by the partnership for the full year from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
- 1.2 The Wellingborough Community Safety Plan produced by the CSP supports the vision articulated by the borough council of 'Making Wellingborough a place to be proud of'. The strategic objectives set out in the Wellingborough Community Safety Plan are consistent with the council's objectives and will provide a means of supporting delivery of key priorities, in particular reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.

2 Executive summary

This report discusses the progress made by the Wellingborough Community Safety Partnership during the 2013-14 financial year. It looks at some of the initiatives and projects that have taken place over this period and at future plans.

3 Appendices

Appendix 1: Wellingborough CSP progress against objectives 2013-14.

4 Proposed action:

- 4.1 **The committee is invited to RESOLVE to note this report.**
- 4.2 **The committee is invited to discuss issues relating to the provision of community safety and identify any matters they RECOMMEND be reported to relevant policy committees for their attention.**

5 Background

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on this council to work with other responsible partners in formulating a strategy to reduce crime and disorder in the borough. Under the Act the following organisations are determined as responsible partners:
 - District and borough councils.
 - Police Constabulary.
 - County councils in the case of two-tier administrative areas.

- 5.2 Originally the responsible partners also included the now dissolved police authority, fire service, probation service and NHS health trust. However the Act does require the three responsible partners to consult and co-operate with these other bodies.
- 5.3 The delivery of the strategy and related work has been carried out through the Wellingborough Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Wellingborough CSP takes the view that community safety covers a wide remit and therefore encompasses partners beyond the statutory requirements. At board level this includes representatives from:
- Borough Council of Wellingborough.
 - Northamptonshire Police.
 - Northamptonshire County Council.
 - Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue.
 - Nene Clinical Commissioning group.
 - Probation service provider.
 - Wellingborough Homes.
 - Wellingborough Norse.
 - A secondary school representative.
 - A voluntary sector domestic violence service provider.

In addition the wider partnership works with other appropriate organisations on a 'task and finish' basis to reduce crime and disorder.

- 5.4 The CSP board meets bi-monthly to formulate and oversee the strategy. It sets out the strategic vision for the area and incorporates targets linked to the council's priorities.
- 5.5 A partnership strategic needs assessment is carried out each year, looking into crime patterns and highlighting hotspots. The Wellingborough CSP partners meet to consider the findings of the assessment and other perception data in order to set the priorities for the Wellingborough area.
- 5.6 In November 2012, Adam Simmonds was elected Northamptonshire's first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The Commissioner published a four year countywide Police and Crime Plan in March 2013. There is an obligation on community safety partnerships to 'have regard' to this plan in setting their own targets and work activities. The plan sets out countywide outcomes as a focus over its four year life:
- A reduction of at least 40% in violent crime (including domestic abuse).
 - A focus on eradicating drugs and reducing acquisitive crime.
 - Antisocial behaviour will be robustly and intelligently tackled.
 - Northamptonshire will have a more visible police force.
 - Northamptonshire will be a secure place.
 - Northamptonshire will have the safest roads.

- 5.7 The CSP considered both the partnership assessment and the PCC's Police and Crime Plan in order to set the following priorities and objectives for the Wellingborough area for 2013-14, over and above day to day crime reduction:
- A reduction in vehicle crime, especially theft from vehicles.
 - A reduction in non-domestic burglary (businesses, outbuildings etc).
 - A reduction in antisocial behaviour (ASB), including criminal damage.
 - A reduction in repeat interpersonal violence (domestic abuse).
- 5.8 The introduction of the PCC office changed the commissioning arrangements of the local community safety fund. Local funding for 2013-14 was allocated not by area, but by means of a countywide pot for commissioned bids. Wellingborough CSP received £37,332 to support the partnership, including £14,000 towards salary costs.
- 5.9 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire has an ambition that Northamptonshire becomes the safest county in England. Wellingborough CSP supports this ambition and will ensure its decisions and actions reflect this, and will work with the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to the Police and Crime Plan.

6. Discussion

- 6.1 The Wellingborough CSP has achieved good results over the 2013-14 year. Appendix 1 shows the achievements against stated priorities in terms of the crime statistics recorded for the area for the year. Highlights include:
- A reduction in the numbers of non-domestic burglaries and criminal damage reports.
 - Theft from vehicles was still high, but on a downward trend during the last six months of the year.
 - The number of reports from repeat victims of domestic violence also fell, a testament perhaps to the revised multi-agency case management approach to supporting victims and potential perpetrators.
 - A reduction in the number of people who think that ASB is a problem in their area, to a level not seen for many years.
 - A reduction in the number of people who feel unsafe going out at night.
- 6.2 In order to improve outcomes, the structure of the CSP was refreshed to broaden the number of partners on the board in order to deliver a 'value added' partnership approach. The terms of reference were refreshed, with the aim stated as 'to make the borough of Wellingborough a safer place'. It is acknowledged that the way to do this is to bring added value as partners over and above the 'day to day work' in order to reduce – and prevent – crime and disorder.
- 6.3 Alongside the partnership board, the delivery groups have been refocused to work on a 'task and finish' basis, allowing targeted concentrated effort to be given to those projects or circumstances where no one partner can solve the problem alone. The domestic abuse forum and the antisocial behaviour forum have shifted in emphasis onto casework in order to reduce the number of

repeat victims. All work along with positive communications will contribute to the efforts to reduce the perceptions figure.

6.4 Good links are maintained with the PCC's office and other county partners and colleagues to share good practice, align budgets where appropriate and monitor and discuss and implement new ideas and legislative changes.

6.5 The CSP has worked on several key areas during the 2013-14 year. The board has:

- Refreshed the vision for the CSP and confirmed the aim as 'making the borough of Wellingborough a safer place'. This complements the PCC's wider vision for the county and BCW's own vision.
- In relation to domestic violence and violence in the wider context the CSP invited Victim Support to a CSP meeting to give a presentation about their work and have a discussion about any practical steps the CSP could take to help.
- In relation to alcohol the partnership has discussed the current review of the countywide Statement of Licensing Policy and encouraged the Director of Public Health to contribute to the review. The review of the Statement of Licensing Policy is to be discussed at the next local health and wellbeing forum. Partners are in discussion with a local school about working together to inform young people about the dangers of alcohol harm.
- Discussed the PCC's Victim's Voice report and recommendations and agreed a number of actions including:
 - making more use of the E-Cins case management system;
 - pulling together more comprehensive signposting information for victims and potential victims of domestic violence;
 - engaging with all local secondary education providers to understand the views and needs of young victims and what practical action the CSP can take.
- Held a discussion in relation to restorative practices. Further work will consider the findings of a recent pilot scheme to see if the learning there can be applied to the Wellingborough area.
- Spread the message about the desire to increase the number of Special Constables.
- Looked at how to more effectively evaluate what the CSP does and to better demonstrate value for money in all that is done as a partnership.

6.6 Partners have worked on an operational level on a number of tasks and projects in order to reduce crime and disorder and to help people feel safer. Examples include:

- Successful introduction of the town centre street pastor scheme on Saturday nights, seed funded through the CSP.

- Campaigns in the run up to Christmas focused on shopping area patrols and additional resources for the night time economy. CSP members met with representatives from the Chamber of Trade to discuss problem areas and agree joint solutions in known hotspots in the town centre.
- Mainstreamed projects designed to have a positive impact on reducing antisocial behaviour through preventative education, such as the Young Citizens Scheme run with primary schools, positive activities for young people and the 'No Excuses' environmental campaign.
- Projects to raise awareness about domestic abuse with young people and other vulnerable groups as to what constitutes a 'healthy' relationship, to recognise signs of actual or potentially abusive trends of behaviour and how to report incidents.
- Target hardening work continued for those at risk of life threatening violence, providing target hardening and security measures for the most vulnerable victims of domestic abuse in their own homes, whilst short term refuge places were available for women and their children fleeing domestic abuse.
- Use of enforcement tools where appropriate such as antisocial behaviour orders and dispersal zones to deal with particular areas or offenders in parallel with work with the community to find sustainable solutions, particularly in persistent ASB hotspots.

6.7 The Police Commissioner has launched a Local Solutions Fund and it is his intention to commission directly with the districts and boroughs. The fund has been set up using monies derived from second home funding allocations, council tax discounts and exemptions and a number of other discretionary streams available to the Commissioner. Wellingborough has been allocated £37,638.

6.8 During the coming year 2014-15, the community safety partnership will continue to build on the changes it has made in order to deliver the best outcomes in crime reduction and community safety. Research into local crime trends and early discussions have taken place with a view to drawing up outcomes for Wellingborough to form the CSP strategy and spend for 2014-15. These will be discussed at the next CSP Board meeting before being agreed with the Commissioner's office.

6.9 The community support function of the borough council is being restructured, acknowledging the causal links to crime through health and wellbeing factors such as alcohol or drug abuse. In future the community health and wellbeing role will sit alongside that of community safety officer. This will complement the wider aspirations of the PCC and the Wellingborough CSP and strengthen the preventative work that can be done to reduce crime and disorder over the longer term.

7 Legal powers

- 7.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on local authorities to work with the police and other partners to reduce crime and disorder in each borough or district.
- 7.2 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that local authority members and officers and other partners consider crime and disorder implications within all of the service areas they provide.

8 Financial and value for money implications

- 8.1 Non-compliance of Section 17 responsibilities could result in legal challenges and, therefore, financial costs. It is necessary to consider the financial impact of not tackling crime and disorder. Costs of crime (financial) are considerable and far outweigh initial costs to prevent undesirable activity. Other economic costs also need to be considered in terms of creating a vibrant night and daytime economy in the borough.
- 8.2 The CSP will work with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and other partners to maximise external funding opportunities where possible to reduce crime and disorder in the borough.

9 Risk analysis

Nature of risk	Consequences if realised	Likelihood of occurrence	Control measures
Resources and leadership fall short of expectations.	Severe curtailment of partnership activity leading to non-achievement of both council and partnership targets. Increased crime and disorder within the borough.	Medium.	Support the CSP plan and link to BCW priorities. Tackle issues in a targeted way through task and finish groups.

10 Implications for resources

Resource will be required through the provision of officer time and support for the Community Safety Partnership. Other funding streams may become available to the partnership from time to time and the Wellingborough CSP will endeavour to utilise these as much as possible to supplement any funding shortfalls.

11 Implications for stronger and safer communities

The Community Safety Plan is about making reductions in crime and disorder based on recorded police statistics, local residents' concerns and partner data for improvement to the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the area.

12 Implications for equalities

The Wellingborough Community Safety Plan contains elements designed to evaluate the impact of services, policies and activities on different groups in society to eliminate discrimination and promote community cohesion.

13 Author and contact officer

Gill Chapman, Principal Community Support Manager.

14 Consultees

Senior Management Team.
Insp Pauline Sturman, Northants Police.

15 Background papers

Police statistics.

Appendix 1: Wellingborough CSP progress against objectives 2013-14

Priority measures	2012-13	2013-14	Impact
Theft from vehicles (no of recorded incidents).	421	460	Total incidents rose over the year but the trend is downward over the last 6 months of the year.
Non-domestic burglary (no of recorded incidents).	543	402	Achieved. 26% reduction in incidents.
Incidents of all recorded ASB.	3754	3836	Total no of reports rose 2.2%
Incidents of ASB of which the number were recorded as criminal damage.	971	863	Reduction in criminal damage of 108 reports ie 11%
Number of repeat domestic abuse victims of violence.	39	21	Achieved.
A reduction in the percentage of people who think that ASB is a problem in their area.	10.4	7.0	Achieved. This is the lowest level seen in the borough for many years.